

The Wire

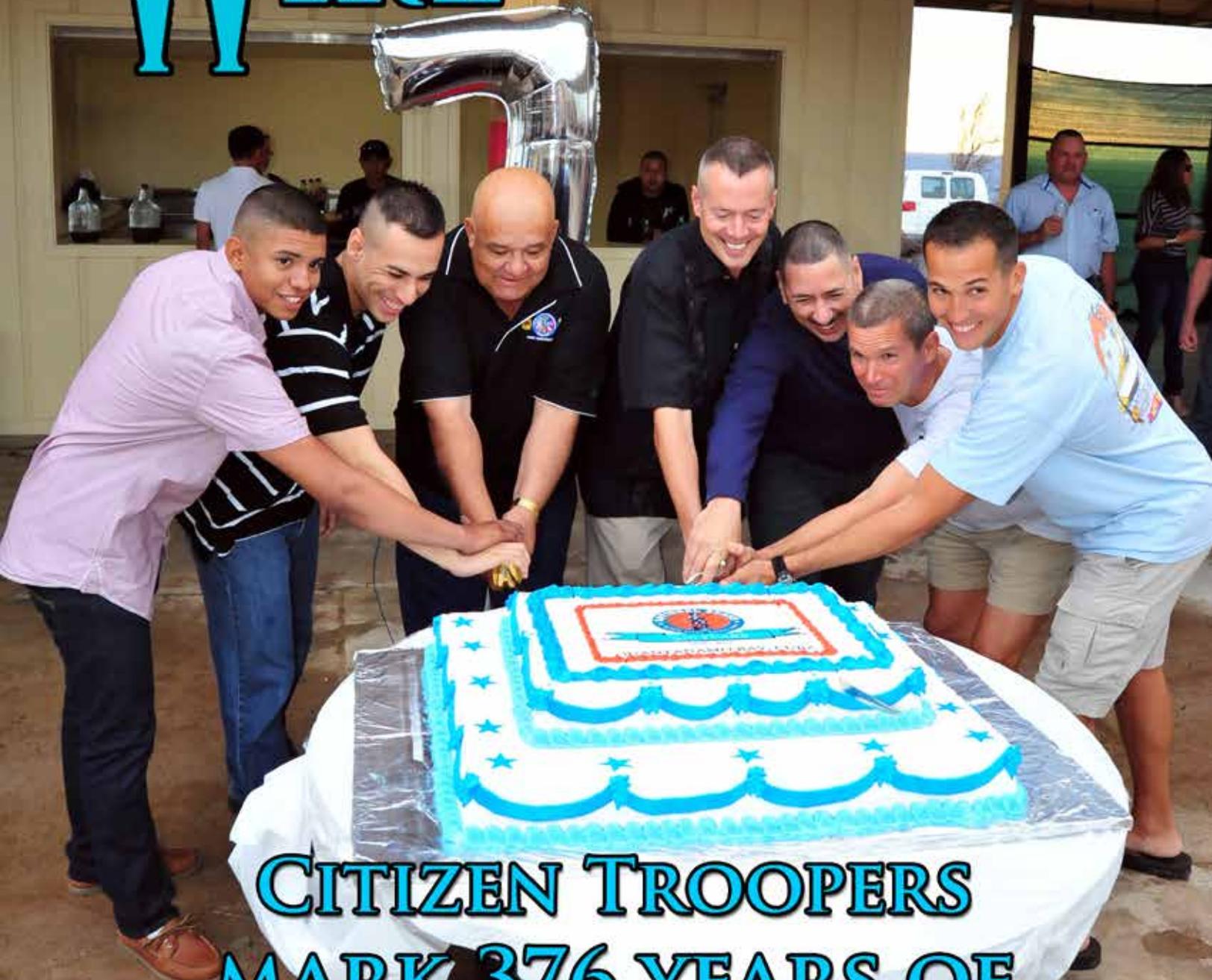
Inside:

Chaplains deliver cookies

GTMO's new EO manager

525th MP Jingle Bell Run

Holiday Hoops Classic



CITIZEN TROOPERS MARK 376 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Trooper Focus: Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Michael Gavola

COMMAND CORNER

CAPT. RICHARD STOLTZ
COMMANDER, JOINT MEDICAL GROUP

The holiday season highlights the importance of giving and sharing. Many of us participate in various traditions and rituals that help us make meaningful connections to our family, friends and community. Often these commemorations bring back memories from our past.

With our diverse population here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, we have special opportunities to honor and respect a variety of festivities. While celebrating, we can enhance our understanding of each other.

For those who are separated from their families and close friends, the holiday season can be difficult. Whenever possible, please take the time to reach out and provide extra support to each other.

Below is a list of some holiday season dos and don'ts that you may find helpful. Most of these apply to holidays throughout the year.

Do:

- Do spend the most time with people you enjoy being with.

- Do take some time to make peace with yourself. Go for a walk, by yourself or with a friend.

- Do volunteer to do something that will be helpful to others.

- Do remember that your family, friends and relationships matter more than expensive gifts.

- Do find someone with whom you can relax and be honest.

Don't:

- Don't expect to create the perfect holiday and then get upset when everything doesn't turn out exactly right. The holidays can never completely erase conflicts and

problems.

- Don't overspend to feel better. Expensive gifts are not as important as thoughtful gestures. Overspending will lead to bigger problems when the bills arrive.

- Don't overeat. With turkey, stuffing, potatoes, candy canes, cookies, pies, and fruit cakes, this may be hard to do. If you want to taste everything, limit yourself to small bites. Don't starve yourself and then binge when the food arrives. Try to avoid eating without thinking or eating more when you already know you've had enough.

- Don't drink too much alcohol. When highly intoxicated, we are at great risk

It's wonderful to give and share. It's also wonderful to receive from those who enjoy giving. Have a great and wonderful holiday.

for hurting ourselves professionally and personally. Our actions could also harm others.

- Don't expect others to act the way you want them to act. Instead, attempt to accept others for who they are and avoid unpleasant company to the extent

possible.

If you find things more difficult than usual during the holiday season, remember – all of us, sooner or later, find ourselves in situations where we need help. A willingness to admit the need for help is a sign of strength and a positive step forward.

There are many resources on base to serve and assist those who may be struggling. These include your chain of command, the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART), chaplains, Fleet and Family Support Center, and medical.

It's wonderful to give and share. It's also wonderful to receive from those who enjoy giving. Have a great and wonderful holiday.



JTF Guantanamo

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Deputy Commander
Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko
Sergeant Major
Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith
Office of Public Affairs Director
Navy Capt. Robert Durand: 9928
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JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

NEWS FROM THE BAY

Motorcycle course

Have you ever wanted to ride a motorcycle? It may seem difficult to learn, but Naval Station Guantanamo Bay has a solution. The NAVSTA Safety Office is offering the Basic Rider Motorcycle Safety Course to all GTMO residents. For more information or to sign up for the course, contact the Safety office at 4655.

Reservations

Preparing for parties and events can be very stressful. Wouldn't it be nice to not have to worry about the big stuff? The Bayview and the MWR have you covered. They can provide tables, bounce houses, catering, or DJ equipment. For more information or to make your reservation, contact Ging at 75604 or 84414.

A new way to bowl

Come out and enjoy all-new Cosmic Bowling, now playing at Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center every Friday and Saturday night from 9 to 11:30 p.m. The scene features new cosmic lights and sound system, and attendees can request music on four new big screens. The \$13 cost includes two and a half hours of bowling and a shoe rental.

Designated drivers

Are you planning on partying into the new year? Remember not to drink and drive. Do the smart thing and have a designated driver. Designated drivers will receive complimentary soda and water at the bars. See the bartenders for details.

Golf tournament

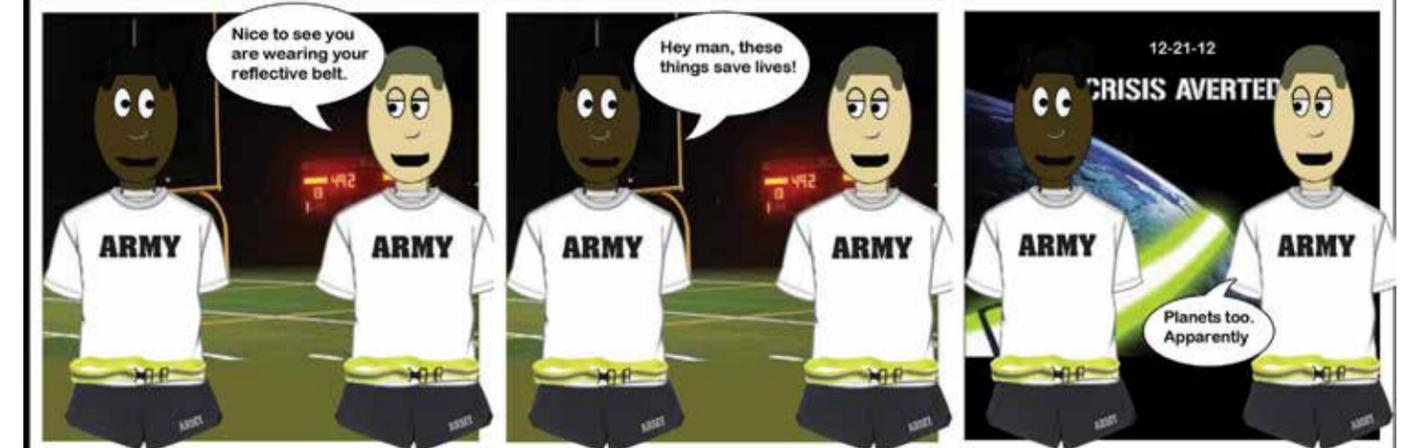
Like golfing, but not quite up to par? How about golfing as a team? The MWR is hosting the Santa's Christmas Classic Golf Tournament at the golf course. Teams must be comprised of four people. The tournament starts at 8am and goes until noon. This event is free and open to golfers of all ages and skill levels.

Lunch at Marblehead

During Gold Hill's renovations, remember that Marblehead Lanes has a selection of lunch options available. There is also free bowling during lunch with the purchase of five dollars or more.



ONLY AT GTMO by Spc. Brian Godette



Cover: Following tradition, the youngest and oldest enlisted and officers help Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko, the Joint Task Force Guantanamo deputy commander, cut the cake at the National Guard Birthday Extravaganza on Dec. 21. From left are Army Pfc. Brian Gonzalez, Army 2nd Lt. Edward Toro, Army Sgt. Maj. Rene Torres, Lettko, Army Col. Gervasio Ortiz, Air Force Lt. Col. Elmer Norvell, and Air Force 1st Lt. Sandford Williams. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.



By Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

It's not often that I am disappointed in a movie. In fact, I don't think I have ever been disappointed in a movie, at least not until now. Sure, there have been movies I didn't like and wished I hadn't spent my time and money seeing, but I wouldn't exactly describe that feeling as a disappointment. But, I have to be as honest as Honest Abe here – "Lincoln" left me feeling disappointed as soon as the end credits started rolling.

Maybe my hopes were too high for the biopic of our country's 16th president, directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Daniel Day-Lewis ("There Will Be Blood"). Maybe I expected too much from the film after learning in school and reading in books about the man many consider to be one of our country's greatest presidents. Maybe I just don't see in this film what the professional critics see that has them giving it such approval and acclaim.

Whatever it is about the film, I can't give it more than three banana rats, and even that third banana rat is feeling downright disappointed after seeing the film.

My biggest gripe with the film is its title. It's called "Lincoln." Now, I'm no film expert, but when I see a film with a title that is someone's name, I expect the focus of that film to be on that person. In this case, I expected "Lincoln" to be about President Abraham Lincoln and the last few months of his life as the Civil War draws to a close.

Instead, what we are shown is a heated debate in the U.S. House of Representatives over the then-proposed 13th Amendment to abolish slavery and the process that Lincoln, his Cabinet, and fellow Republicans take to ensure the amendment's passage before the end of the war.

The focus isn't really on Lincoln at all, except for his role in pushing for the

amendment's passage and seeking the South's surrender. If the filmmakers wanted to make a film about the 13th Amendment, they should have given it a more appropriate title, in my opinion.

My next gripe is the lack of drama in the film. Now, I'm not one to want films based on a true story to be so dramatized that the tag "based" gets used too loosely. At the same time, I really feel this film lacked the drama that reality probably actually provided. A good, dramatic speech or scene probably would've fit here, but I never saw one.

Wasn't Lincoln one of the greatest orators among presidents? Where was that inspirational, moving monologue as Lincoln urges the House to pass the amendment? With the House so divided on the amendment and debate so contentious, where were the fiery speeches either for or against or where were the intense arguments?

None of the scenes provided the kind of drama that keeps me on the edge of my seat in suspense and anxiously waiting to see what happens next. Of course, what is presented is history that actually happened, so of course we know what's going to happen in the movie. It's interesting to note that even though the film takes place during the Civil War, the focus isn't on the war so there aren't even any dramatic battle scenes.

Another gripe – I would say my last one, but I'm sure I could think of more – is the ending of the movie. Normally I don't like to give away the end of a movie, but we all know what happens – unless you fell asleep through that part of high school history class.

Less than a week after the South surrenders and the Civil War ends, the president and the first lady are watching a play from the president box at Ford's Theater with two of their friends, while John Wilkes Booth and some other disgruntled Southern

sympathizers attempt to carry out an assassination plot that would totally disrupt the newly reunited country. Only Booth is successful when he invades the presidential box and shoots Lincoln in the back of the head.

How does Booth do it? I'd hate to call him a genius, but in a way he was. An actor who frequents Ford's Theater, he walks in basically undetected because everyone just assumes he's there to perform. He sneaks up to the door of the box, waits for a rather loud part of the show, then opens the door without being heard and does the deed. He jumps down from the box onto the stage, mutters a few lines, and runs away. The audience just assumes that it's just part of the show until they hear Mrs. Lincoln screaming.

Now, if you assumed I just described a scene from "Lincoln," you'll be more disappointed than I was when I saw it. Instead, the president's youngest son, Willie, is at a different theater watching a different play when the curtain closes in the middle of the show and a man comes out to announce that the president has been shot at Ford's Theater. Willie is shown crying as that scene cuts to another of a doctor pronouncing Lincoln dead the next morning.

OK, just to be fair, I will say one good thing about the film – it holds a star-studded, award-winning cast. Besides Day-Lewis as Lincoln, the film included Sally Field ("Forrest Gump") as Mary Todd Lincoln, David Strathairn ("The Bourne Legacy") as Secretary of State William Seward, Tommy Lee Jones ("No Country for Old Men") as Radical Republican leader Thaddeus Stevens, and even Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("Looper") in a minor role as their oldest son Robert, among others.

But even such cast couldn't save the film for me. Overall, it was a pretty big disappointment. I feel like the big statue in the Lincoln Memorial is shaking its head.

JTF GTMO welcomes new EO manager



Air Force Master Sgt. Brenda Fleming, Joint Task Force Guantanamo's new equal opportunity manager, works at her office at the Joint Personnel Center. Fleming held a number of positions in the military before coming to GTMO as the EO manager.

Story and photos by Spc. Raechel Haynes

When you joined your branch of the military, how did you come to that decision? Did you know beforehand that you wanted to join that branch? For some, they knew ahead of time that they wanted to join the military, but for others, it was different. Some have a driving force behind their decision. Some don't know what else to do. What drove your decision to join? Was it sheer patriotism? Was it a desire to be part of something bigger? How about the desire to make a difference?

Air Force Master Sgt. Brenda Fleming didn't start out wanting to make a difference, but throughout her career in the military, she has made a difference in many ways. She joined the Army in 1979 as a National Guardsman, but she wanted to go on active duty when she finished her basic training. After being told again and again that she couldn't go active duty until she finished her National Guard contract, she was told she would not be able to join active-duty service because she was prior service.

That didn't stop her from trying to switch over to active duty. She was given the opportunity to join the Air National Guard with the hopes that her opportunities for active duty would improve. In 2000, she finally got her chance to go active duty. Throughout her career in the military, she served as a legal clerk, law enforcement officer, drill instructor and recruiter. Fleming now serves as the equal

opportunity manager here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

"I got started doing equal opportunity, or EO, as a means of active duty service," Fleming said. "I had met some people who worked in EO while I had been a drill instructor, so I knew what it was. I saw the job listing when my time as a recruiter was almost finished, so I started calling around about the job."



Air Force Master Sgt. Brenda Fleming

Fleming got the job as an EO representative. With over 30 years of military experience under her belt, she knows just how important equal opportunity is to service members and civilians alike. Not everyone can do this job, but Fleming uses her combined military experiences to her advantage. "I'm a good fit for this job," Fleming said. "I enjoy talking to people. I enjoy talking, teaching, training, ensuring that people

know how to treat people."

In the military, respect is not just a word, but it is a crucial element of everything service members do. Respect is not an option. Equal opportunity stresses the importance of respect and dignity of all human beings of every race, religion, gender, and other differences.

"It's something that is needed," Fleming said. "In the military and civilian world - it's important. It's about ensuring people treat others with dignity and respect - embracing diversity."

You see a lot of diversity in the military, but it is so easy to forget the variety of cultures that people come from. In the military, unity is important, but it isn't meant to make everyone the same. Unity is meant to draw people together while respecting differences. Fleming said that respecting those differences comes in many forms, for example, abstaining from racial jokes and not cat-calling or making suggestive comments to other service members.

"If people can't treat others with respect, they are a liability to the military," Fleming said. "Military policy is zero tolerance for EO violations. I tell people that if they are a liability for the military, they are going to be viewed as a liability when they get out in the civilian world."

With over 33 years of service in the military and her years of work with EO, Fleming is getting ready to retire. Her record speaks for itself. She has made a difference wherever she has worked and will finish strong as the EO manager at GTMO.

GIVING, CARING, AND SHARING

COOKIE DROP REMEMBERS THOSE WORKING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are traditionally known for ham dinner, sledding, parties or get-togethers with family and friends and, of course, a relaxing day at home. While sledding and, for many, family dinners may not be possible here on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, many civilians and Troopers alike won't have the privilege of the day at home either.

To make those civilians and Troopers who have to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day feel appreciated at the holiday season and give them a piece of the holiday spirit, chaplains from the naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo organized a cookie drop to bring cookies to those working over the holidays.

"One in five people on the base has

some sort of duty," said Navy Lt. Tung Tran, the staff chaplain for the naval station side. "Everyone on duty for those two days, around 1,100 people, will get cookies."

All workers on the island, not just Troopers, are included in the cookie drop.

"Firefighters, service members, the Filipino and Jamaican workers, and anyone else that works on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day will be getting cookies," Tran said. "They will be standing watch or duty, and this is a token or a way of saying you're remembered on Christmas Day."

While working on Christmas Day is a sacrifice for anyone, many here would be celebrating the holidays alone anyway.

"Especially for the JTF side, most don't have their families here," said Lt. Col. Dan Zulli, the deputy command chaplain on the JTF side. "When you're stuck in one of the

camp, there are a lot more fun places to be on Christmas Day."

Something as simple as homemade cookies can make a difference.

"It's going to make someone's day," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Allen Clippinger, a religious programs specialist for JTF. "Getting something like homemade cookies maybe reminds them of an experience they had at home during the holidays."

Making sure everyone on duty has cookies is a nice gesture but also a challenging task to take on.

"We had to find out how many people are on duty on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day," Tran said. "We also had to really encourage people to help. We knew that we couldn't bake all of the cookies in one or two days."

With such a large undertaking, the naval station and JTF chaplains' offices joined forces to complete the mission.

"Everyone is here to support the base chaplain," Zulli said. "The naval station and JTF side work very well together. We support one another and train together to help fill in where needed. They were nice enough to include the JTF people on their to-do list for the cookie drop as well."

While Christmas follows with many traditions that will not be reality for many here on GTMO, one traditional gift of sharing is certainly a high priority for many.

"For the many people that will work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, this will hopefully bring a little cheer to them," Zulli said.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Allen Clippinger, a religious programs specialist for Joint Task Force Guantanamo, help drops cookies into individual bags on Dec. 20 to deliver to Troopers and civilians.



The Guantanamo Bay Naval Station Chapel and the Joint Task Force Trooper Chapel come together with volunteers in order to package cookies being distributed to around 1,100 civilians and Troopers alike who will be on duty both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



Volunteers stuff more than 4,000 cookies into bags to be handed out on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Teams square off for Holiday Hoops trophy



A player for GTMO Ballers attempts to get a shot past a Team Elite player to make a basket during the GTMO MWR Holiday Hoops Classic basketball tournament last weekend. The two teams eventually faced each other again in the championship game with GTMO Ballers coming out on top.

Story and photos by Spc. Brian Godette

"Jump, jump, Kris Kross, will make ya, jump, jump, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay will make ya."

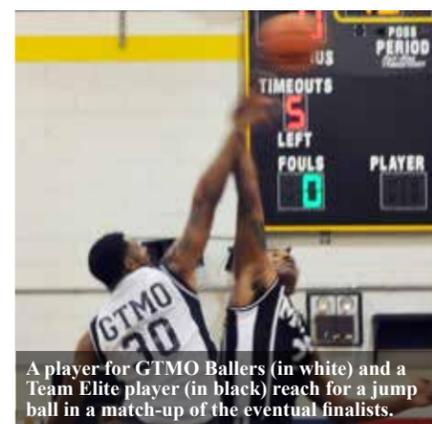
OK, so maybe that's not how the lyrics goes from 1990's rap duo Kris Kross, but MWR and the Liberty Program brought hoop dreams to GTMO participants with a two-day Holiday Hoops Classic basketball tournament.

"We had teams register a week or so in advance so we can get an idea bracket-wise, and see how many games we will have and how many nights," explained Oshane Wynter, sports coordinator for GTMO MWR.

With 10 teams signed up for the tournament, the basketball tournament was ready to get started at approximately 6:30 p.m. Friday. Each team would compete in a single-elimination, bracketed game initially, with the top four teams set for a double-elimination match-up heading into the championship game.

"The same thing we do with all sports and tournaments, we have a champion with bragging rights, and right now we have the Christmas trophy since this is the Holiday Hoops tournament. It's open to everybody on base because we are all here together and it helps get the whole community out," Wynter said.

With this being the second year of the Holiday Hoops tournament and the first year the MWR has teamed with the Liberty Program for the event, preparations were made to cater to the spectators and keep everyone entertained. Volunteers from the Liberty Program set up raffles and giveaways at the front door, and a half-court shootout was set for halftime with a prize giveaway for the winners.



A player for GTMO Ballers (in white) and a Team Elite player (in black) reach for a jump ball in a match-up of the eventual finalists.

Participants and spectators alike arrived at Denich Gym early to get ready for the fun. Music played overhead as team members and coaches filled the courts, warming up and eagerly awaiting the match-up announcement.

"I'm not really worried about the competition tonight. I'm just happy to play and come out and have fun," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Allen Clippinger, a member of the Bruins team. "I feel like we have a good chance, just have to come out and play hard."

Clippinger's feelings were echoed by many of the players signed up for the competition. Just minutes away from the start time, the mood became tenser and the sense of competing also grew.

"I'm playing for Team Elite, GTMO's Finest," Army Sgt. William Powell II said. "I'm confident and have the expectation to dominate every game. My team has good chemistry, and we feel very confident about what we are going to do tonight."

Looking across the basketball court, every team had the look of readiness and the same desire to win. What would be the deciding factor that would enable one team to triumph

over another?

"Team balance would be the determining factor, and my team has it," Powell said.

Every team was allotted time to practice for the tournament prior to the start date in order to create their own game plan.

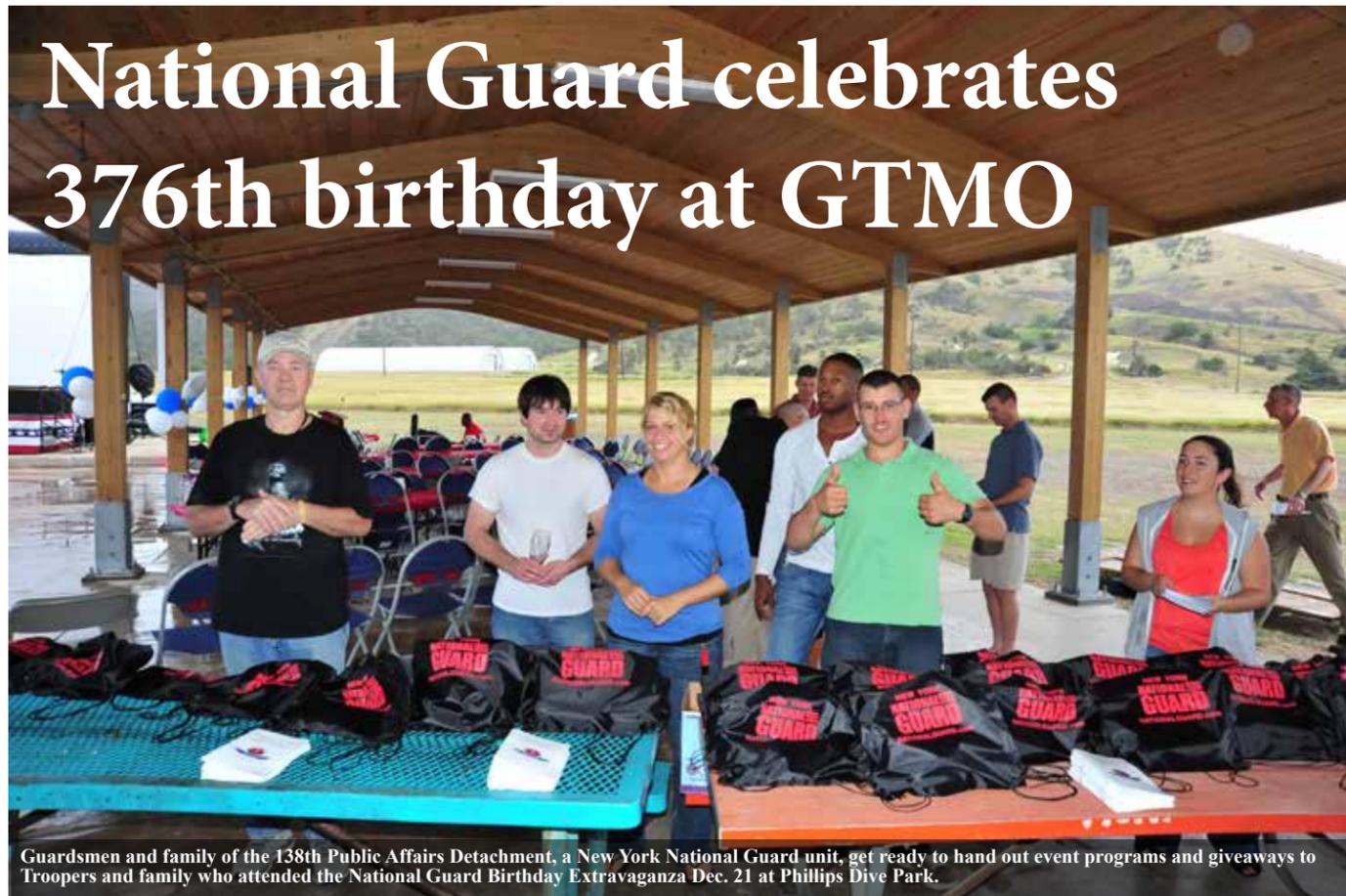
"We got a couple days to practice in, a couple plays in, some defensive schemes," Petty Officer 2nd Class Javier Martinez said. "I feel like there are a lot of teams out here that say they can do more than they really can. They got the nice shoes and yadayada, I got these Adidas I just bought an hour ago, not broken in, and I'm going to come out and do work regardless."

From the tip-off of the first game, high energy was all over the court. Teams played hard, rotating players in and making tough offensive and defensive plays on almost every possession. The referees kept a well balanced and fair game going from start to finish.

Fans cheered for their favorite teams, shouting and stomping on the bleachers for almost every score, steal or dunk. A lot of the excitement came from the game with the Philippine Nationals playing against Team Elite. A surprisingly energetic and well rounded Philippine team, who were on average six inches shorter than their opponents, sprang out from the gate scoring and holding their own against Team Elite before eventually being knocked out of the competition in the second half.

The matches went on, and teams rose and fell. In the end, there stood only two - GTMO Ballers and Team Elite. The championship match had the feel of a playoff game with one's favorite NBA team. Hard fought and to the wire, one team emerged as the Holiday Hoops Classic tournament champion and holders of the bragging rights. Congratulations, GTMO Ballers.

National Guard celebrates 376th birthday at GTMO



Guardsmen and family of the 138th Public Affairs Detachment, a New York National Guard unit, get ready to hand out event programs and giveaways to Troopers and family who attended the National Guard Birthday Extravaganza Dec. 21 at Phillips Dive Park.

Story and photos by
Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

In 1636, colonial militias made up of able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 16 and 60 were established to protect families and towns in time of need. Today, that militia is known as the National Guard – the oldest component of the U.S. armed forces and one of the nation’s longest-enduring institutions. This year marks the 376th birthday of the military force that is still comprised of Citizen-Soldiers.

From October to December, Guard members that were either in their home state or deployed somewhere celebrated the National Guard’s birthday. On Dec. 21, Guard members here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay held a National Guard Birthday Extravaganza at Phillips Dive Park.

“On this special occasion and following the rich military customs and courtesies of the service, we are honored to celebrate the 376th birthday of this nation’s first military armed forces,” master of ceremonies Army Master Sgt. Luis Cora said.

Cora is also the plans and

operations noncommissioned officer in charge in the Joint Detention Group and a Soldier with the Puerto Rico National Guard.

The extravaganza recognized the Puerto Rico National Guard and four other Guard units.

Troopers from the Alabama Air National Guard, Florida Army National Guard, North Dakota Army National Guard and the New York Army National Guard were also there proudly representing their units and Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“The Marines had their ball, and now the



National Guard Birthday cake prepared by the Seaside Galley.

National Guard will have its extravaganza,” said Brig. Gen. James C. Lettko, guest speaker and JTF deputy commander.

Wearing a combat patch of the 42nd Infantry Division from New York and a 53rd Troop Command patch also from New York, Lettko knows all about being a National Guard Soldier.

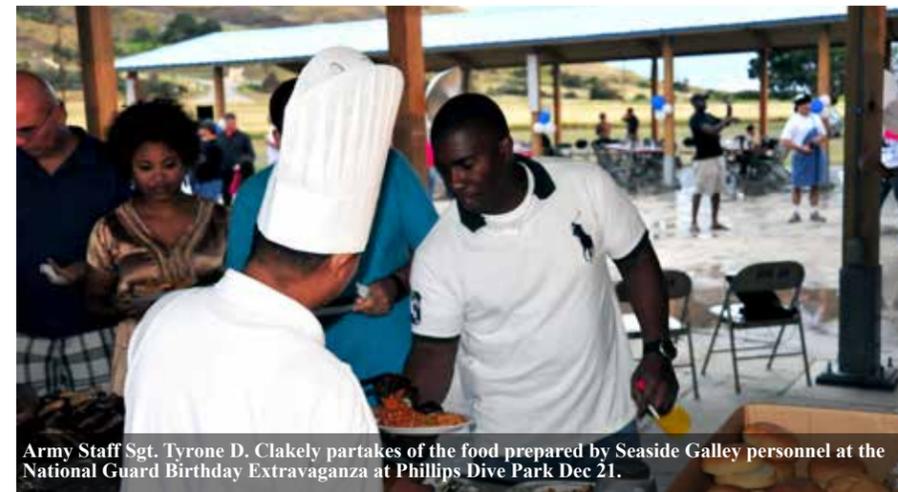
Lettko welcomed the attendees with his remarks and event message about the National Guard’s history and how the militia was formed.

That feeling of welcome flowed through Phillips Dive Park way before the event started, when random service members collaborated to move tables and chairs away from the light drizzle that tried to rain on the parade, or rather extravaganza.

That sense of camaraderie remained the same throughout the event as well. Not only was there a bond between Air National Guard and Army National Guard Troopers, but some of the Sailors and regular Army members who attended the event also displayed a joint cohesion.

“I felt a sense of belonging,” Petty Officer 1st Class Fontan E. Luis said.

Here in GTMO as an individual augmentee, Luis said he also felt a



Army Staff Sgt. Tyrone D. Clakely partakes of the food prepared by Seaside Galley personnel at the National Guard Birthday Extravaganza at Phillips Dive Park Dec 21.

tone of comradeship amongst the service members.

The extravaganza was set up very well with the help of everyone, but special thanks went to Army Capt. Josue Flores, Army Sgt. Maj. Rene Torres, Army Staff Sgt. Wanda Garcia, GTMO Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Seaside Galley.

An ancient tradition of toasting that followed the opening remarks displayed respect and appreciation in honoring 376 years of service.

Rear Adm. John Smith Jr., JTF commander, started the toast honoring the president of the United States. Lettko followed with honoring the National Guard, the origin of the armed services. Many others proceeded with honoring the JTF commander, the fallen service members, the Troopers and their families, the employers who gave the Troopers time to serve and the sister services.

Continuing to give honor, the cutting



(From left to right) Rear Adm. John Smith Jr., Sgt. Maj. Rene Torres, Brig. Gen. James Lettko and Col. Gervasio Ortiz raise their glasses as Smith toasts to the President of the United States of America.

of a cake was then performed as a symbolic meaning and represented the National Guard’s newest to oldest guardsmen here at GTMO.

Army Pfc. Brian Gonzalez and Airman 1st Class Tucker Hunter were the youngest enlisted Guardsmen. Army Sgt. Maj. Rene Torres was the oldest enlisted Guard Soldier. Army 2nd Lt. Edward Toro and Air Force 1st Lt. Sanford Williams were the youngest officer Guardsmen, and Army Col. Gervasio Ortiz and Air Force Lt. Col. Elmer Norvell were the oldest officer Guardsmen.

They all stood behind the cake with Lettko ready to cut as a sign of 376 years of excellence. Everyone applauded after the cake cutting and continued to fellowship



Troopers and family members grab a plate of food during an intermission of the National Guard Birthday Extravaganza Dec. 21 at Phillips Dive Park.

with one another while they ate.

“This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate with the National Guard - our brothers and sisters,” said Sgt. 1st Class Blake A. Grier.

Grier is a contracting noncommissioned officer and an active duty Soldier.

Active duty members and other service members all continued to eat together while watching the sun go down.

After the sun set and the night sky darkened, a video about the National Guard’s history and a few Guard members’ personal stories about being in the Guard was showcased for everyone to see.

Everyone danced the night away celebrating 376 years with the nation’s oldest military armed force.

“It was an awesome activity,” Luis said. “I know about the National Guard and know how the National Guard serves our country, not only in war time but in peace time. The National Guard is important in our society.”

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Michael Gavola



Trooper Focus



Story and photos by Spc. Raechel Haynes

If you've ever seen "Baywatch," you'd think that a California lifeguard has it good. Aside from their usual episode-long perils, they still seem to always have it easy. How about a glimpse into the life of a real baywatch lifeguard? Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Gavola is the real deal.

Gavola serves in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as a boatswain's mate and tactical crewman, but in his civilian life he works as a Los Angeles County lifeguard, and at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, he works in Port Security Unit 311. He has only been in the Coast Guard Reserves for about a year and a half, and this is his first deployment. He is also a firefighter and emergency medical technician.

Serving in all these capacities stemmed from the environment he grew up in.

"I grew up by the beach and started looking for jobs to do," Gavola said. "I became a pool lifeguard but some of my friends were ocean lifeguards. It's more responsibility and a little more money. I went and tried out for it. It's a pretty good challenge, I liked it and I stuck with it."

Many of Gavola's career and recreational choices have stemmed from his love of the water.

"My sports of choice always involved water, like swimming or water polo," Gavola said. "That transferred over in college to competitive sports like outrigger racing and the surf lifesaving team. Anything in the water is something I enjoy. I'm more comfortable in the water."

As a Coast Guardsman, he spends a lot of time near and on the water. Even back home, Gavola is always near the Coast Guard

whether or not he is on duty, as a Coast Guard unit and his civilian job work out of the same dock.

"The base back home shares a slip with my civilian job," Gavola said. "After 9/11, they asked our baywatches to help by taking over search and rescue in the area of responsibility, so they could focus more on security. They liked us so much they asked us to stay on the base."

Working with the Coast Guard before joining had an impact on Gavola's decision to join.

"In the Reserves you get to work within your own community, which I like," Gavola

and once he earns his degree he will look for internships at local schools.

Working on his bachelor's is not his only goal here in GTMO.

"I would like to make coxswain or petty officer 2nd class," Gavola said. "I'd like to earn the Port Security Pin and become a boarding team member, along with earning a few more online credits. I want to get in shape and have fun while I'm here."

During his free time, Gavola tries to keep himself busy.

"I go scuba diving, free diving, surfing, just anything in or on the water," Gavola said.

Even at work, he volunteers where there is a need and puts his skills to good use.

"He volunteers to be the unit's safety observer and medical response for small arms training as well as tactical flotation training," said Chief Petty Officer Michael Treddo, water-side training chief.

In every job Gavola has held, he has brought a willingness and a desire to work towards his goals and to volunteer to go beyond his responsibility to



help. Whether he is serving as a lifeguard or a Coast Guardsman, he has utilized his many skills. Those skills have stemmed from his passion for water sports, and now he has the opportunity to work at a job he enjoys.

No matter what the job, Gavola exemplifies the Coast Guard core value of devotion to duty: "We are professionals, military and civilian, who seek responsibility, accept accountability, and are committed to the successful achievement of our organizational goals. We exist to serve. We serve with pride."

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525th jingles all the way on run



Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, the commander of the 525th Military Police Battalion at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, leads her Soldiers on a battalion run from the Downtown Lyceum to the Windjammer and back at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on Dec. 21. The quarterly battalion run was the Jingle Bell run this time and feature Soldiers wearing bells on their shoes, many wearing their company t-shirts and even some donning Santa Claus hats.

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

When Soldiers conduct runs in formation for physical training, they are often heard singing cadences, repeating after the formation leader who is calling out the cadence and occasionally sounding off with a loud, motivated “HOOAH!”

It is not often that these cadences are accompanied by the soft jingle of sleigh bells while the Soldiers in formation wear Santa Claus hats, but that is exactly how the 525th Military Police Battalion of Joint Task Force Guantanamo carried out its formation run on Friday.

It was the battalion’s Jingle Bell Run – one of its quarterly battalion runs around Naval Station Guantanamo Bay that just happened to coincide with the holiday season.

“It’s a great way to build esprit de corps,” said 1st Sgt. Jason Schofield, the first sergeant for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 525th. “We had a great turnout. The weather as perfect ... It was good. It was a great run.”

These kinds of runs are more about the motivation than the exercise, and Schofield said these runs show that the 525th MP Battalion has plenty of motivation among its Soldiers and its leaders.

“We run easily, in my company, at least three times a week,” he said. “To run as a mass formation, it’s such a morale boost. It lets everybody know the 525th MP Battalion and all the companies are united as one.”

Soldiers formed up by company in the parking lot of the Downtown Lyceum, the starting point for Friday’s run. They arrived dressed in the typical Army PT uniform, some wearing the typical gray Army t-shirt and others wearing their company’s t-shirt.

Almost all of the Soldiers donned bells on their shoelaces to make a nice ‘jingle-jingle’ sound as they ran, and some even put Santa hats on their heads to show they are in the holiday spirit.

With Army Lt. Col. Darcy Overbey, the battalion commander, leading the way, the companies lined up in numerical order, starting with the 189th MP Company, and marched out of the lyceum parking lot and on the road toward the Cuban Club. When Overbey gave the command “double time,” she and her Soldiers took off in a running formation up the road.

A guidon bearer carrying the 525th guidon ran to the front of the huge formation next to Overbey, while other guidon bearers marked the head of each company with the respective company’s guidon. The formation came to the end of the road, came out on Recreation Road and ran down the hill toward the Windjammer. Then, the Soldiers ran into the parking lot across from the Windjammer and looped around to head back toward the lyceum.

First, Overbey looped the formation around one more time while the guidon bearers took turns running around the battalion. Then, the battalion continued back up the

road, up the hill, and then took a right down the road to head back to the lyceum.

Throughout the whole run, non-commissioned officers took turns calling out cadences and often turned traditional Christmas carols, such as “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” into military running cadences.

Once back in the lyceum parking lot, the Soldiers formed up again by company and awaited briefings from Army Sgt. Maj. Michael Baker, the battalion sergeant major, and Overbey.

Baker reminded the Soldiers that they were honoring the holiday season with the run they just completed. Since they are away from their families at this time, though, Baker told them they should honor the holiday season also by being a family together.

“I need you to help each other,” he said. “If you see one of your battle buddies down, I need you to put your arm around him.”

Overbey told her Soldiers she was proud of them on the run and is always proud of the mission they carry out and how they carry it out.

“You are amazing,” she said. “You do what nobody else can or wants to do, and you do it on a daily basis with extreme professionalism.”

While Baker urged the Soldiers to treat each other as family members, Overbey reminded them not to forget their families back home during the holiday season.

“Take the time,” she said. “This is the time to connect together.”

New Year's **ROCKIN' RIDGELINE**

Mountain Biking Race

January, 5 2012



0900-1100

Ridgeline Trail

Register by Jan. 2, 2013 at the Marina
Race starts at the parking lot across from the BOQ
and ends by Tierra Kay Housing.

This is an individual, time based race that will
encompass the entire Ridgeline Trail.
1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers receive a prize.

This is a FREE event, open to riders of all ages
FMI, call 2345

Trooper to Trooper

Continue the good fight

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER TERRANCE MAYWEATHER
PORT SECURITY UNIT 311

As we enjoy this holiday season, it is easy to become self-engaged in our thoughts of home and of all the good memories and longings of our home life. We miss our families, homes and the warm feelings of the holidays.

Prior to this deployment I was asked: "Why would you volunteer for this mission? Why would you leave your great job, family, friends and home in the paradise of Hawaii?" The answer is for all of the above reasons!

We were briefed upon arrival of our mission to support the war against terror by the conducting of safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of the detainees, the reason we Troopers are here.

More pointedly, I was reminded that the detainees will try our patience and resolve, try to deter us from the mission and try to sway our point of view to sympathize with their cause. Brig. Gen. Lettko noted to us that "they" are detained thousands of miles from their fight, yet they continue in any possible way to continue the fight.

I instantly recalled the story of Hiroo Onoda, the Japanese soldier in the Philippines who continued to burn rice patties and disrupt the life of his enemies for the Empire of Japan until he received orders, 29 years after

his war had been lost, to surrender by his commanding officer. These examples reminded me ultimately of the Code of Conduct and of our first General Order, summarily that we shall never quit until relived or victorious.

The examples that I have given are examples of our enemies. Make no mistake. We fight an intelligent, committed enemy, committed to destroying that which we hold dear – America.

Make no mistake. We shall prevail.

I encourage you during this holiday season to reach back to your families, friends and



Make no mistake. We fight an intelligent, committed enemy, committed to destroying that which we hold dear – America. Make no mistake. We shall prevail ... Continue the good fight with all that you have. Do America's work, and continue the good fight until the good fight is won.

lovers to remember why you are here, why you fight. Re-visit the Code of Conduct, your General Orders, your Oath of Enlistment, and your Oath of Citizenship. Imagine the victorious conflict by which the national anthem was inspired. During morning colors, as you render that sharp and respectful salute, sing in your soul the words.

Continue the fight, Soldier. Continue the fight, Marine. Continue the fight, Airman. Continue the fight, Sailor, and continue the fight, Coast Guardsmen. Continue the fight with all that you have.

Do America's work, and continue the good fight until the good fight is won. For as it was best said by Elmer Davis: "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

	28 FRI	29 SAT	30 SUN	31 MON	1 TUE	2 WED	3 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Life of Pi (NEW) (PG) 7 p.m. Flight (R) 9 p.m.	Fun Size (last showing) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Jack Reacher (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Cloud Atlas (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 7 p.m. Silent Hill Revelation (last showing) (R) 9 p.m.	Man with the Iron Fists (R) 7 p.m. Lincoln (PG-13) 9 p.m.	Wreck It Ralph (PG) 7 p.m.	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Lincoln (PG-13) 7 p.m. Man with the Iron Fists (R) 9 p.m.	Life of Pi (NEW) (PG) 7 p.m. Flight (R) 9 p.m.	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Silent Hill Revelation (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Fun Size (last showing) (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Cloud Atlas (last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Skyfall (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain's Office at 2323 or the JTF Chaplain's Office at 2309

NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

Daily Catholic Mass
Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass

Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.

CHAPEL ANNEXES

Protestant Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Room B

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m. Room A

Islamic Service

Friday 1 p.m. Room 2

JTF TROOPER CHAPEL

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday 6 p.m.

PROTECT YOUR INFO!

ALERT Commercial imagery and OPSEC

The U.S. and foreign commercial imagery markets have grown tremendously over the past 10 years, giving our adversaries the capability to leverage unclassified imagery for planning and situational awareness. Over 30 countries have space imagery assets in orbit, so this is truly a global business. The detailed resolution, unclassified nature, and affordable cost of purchasing commercial imagery make it a vital source for consumers and our adversaries. Applications of commercial imagery include but are not limited to:

- Situational awareness and disaster relief
- Homeland security and geospatial projects
- Sharing intelligence with coalition and foreign partners
- Natural resource planning
- Infrastructure development and location services
- Scene visualization

Now that the commercial imagery genie is out of the bottle, there is very little we can do to deny our adversaries the use of this commodity. U.S. and international policy support free market availability, so restrictions are non-existent. Therefore, we must expect that adversaries have access to commercial imagery and plan accordingly. Strong OPSEC is our primary defense against releasing sensitive information. USE OPSEC!

PSEC

GUANTANAMO BAY BUS SCHEDULE

All buses run on the hour, 7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Camp America :00 :20 :40	West Iguana :18 :38 :58	TK 2 :43 :03 :23
Gazebo :02 :22 :42	Windjammer/Gym :21 :41 :01	TK 3 :45 :05 :25
NEX Trailer :03 :23 :43	Gold Hill Galley :24 :44 :04	TK 4 :47 :07 :27
Camp Delta 2 :06 :26 :46	NEX :26 :46 :16	KB 373 :50 :10 :30
KB 373 :10 :30 :50	96 Man Camp :31 :51 :11	Camp Delta 1 :52 :12 :32
TK 4 :12 :32 :52	NEX :33 :53 :13	IOF :54 :14 :34
JAS :13 :33 :53	Gold Hill Galley :37 :57 :17	NEX Trailer :57 :17 :37
TK 3 :14 :34 :54	Windjammer/Gym :36 :56 :16	Gazebo :58 :18 :38
TK 2 :15 :35 :55	West Iguana :39 :59 :19	Camp America :00 :20 :40
TK 1 :16 :36 :56	TK 1 :40 :00 :20	

SAFE RIDE – 84781

NAVY

ENTERTAINMENT

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

PRESENTS



**DEC 31st ~ 2200-MIDNIGHT ~ FREE
LIVE AT THE TIKI BAR**



**ALL AGES EVENT
FIREWORKS AT MIDNIGHT**

